WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 12, NUMBER 11 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | MARCH 2002

Community fights anti-homeless ordinances

Phil Owen

Last fall, under heavy pressure from downtown businesses, the Olympia City Council began considering a set of ordinances that would ban camping and car camping, establish "no-panhandling" and "alcohol impact" zones, and beef up trespassing laws in public parks.

Though the city denies it, these ordinances are targeted at homeless people, with the intent of removing the homeless from the community. Similar ordinances have been passed, or are currently under consideration, in hundreds of cities across the U.S.

The trend to criminalize homelessness has grown with the number of homeless people on the streets. Availability of low-income housing decreases every year, even as demand for low-income units increases. According to a Department of Housing and Urban Development report, in 1971 there were as many low-income units as low-income renters, nationwide. By 1998, the number of low-income renters exceeded low-income units by 5.4 million units.

As the cost of housing has increased, public benefits such as Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, and General Assistance for the Unemployable, a disability benefit, have been scaled back.

A recent study by the U.S. Conference of Mayors found that a staggering thirty-eight percent of the urban homeless are families. Low-income, service industry jobs fail to keep up with housing costs; about twenty percent of the homeless are employed. With a rising number of people on the streets, the image of the inner cities has declined.

And that has business owners furious.

Last fall, the Olympia Downtown Association (ODA), a business interest group, met with Olympia City Council members to discuss downtown "livability" and "safety". The ODA has made the passage of camping and panhandling ordinances its top priority.

In January, WashPIRG and the Students Against Hunger and Homelessness teamed up with Olympia's Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition, Works In Progress, Columbia Legal Services, and St. Michael's Social Justice Committee to organize a response to the proposed ordinances. These organizations agreed to work together as the Coalition For Low Income Power, and held a community teach-in on February 20.

About seventy-five people of diverse ages and backgrounds attended the teach-in to hear a panel present arguments against the ordinances.

Panelist Rick McVeigh discussed the stigma and harassment he faces as a homeless man in Olympia.

"When you find yourself in a homeless situation, you're at the mercy of the police," McVeigh said. "They will target you again and again - but where can we go?"

The city is quick to claim that it does not target people based on economic status. City officials cite an increase in "offensive", "illegal", and "anti-social" behaviors as justification for a ban on camping and panhandling.

Yet Tara Perkins, of the Coalition For Low Income Power, pointed out that the ordinances attempt to curb the use of public space toward private business interests.

"What they really mean by 'anti-social' is a sociality that is not relevant to commercial exchange," Perkins said. "When you legislate against those behaviors, you automatically criminalize all people who cannot fully participate in economic exchange."

According to the National Coalition for the Homeless report, attempts to sue cities for discriminatory ordinances have commonly been successful. And Olympia homeless advocate and attorney Vince Brown plans to do exactly that. Hinting at the potential for litigation, Brown told the crowd, "If the city passes these ordinances, it's gonna cost them some money."

Lacey residents raise concerns over Wal-Mart

Tristan Baurick

Over sixty people turned out at Lacey City Hall on February 25 to hear presentations and voice concerns about an amended zoning plan that would allow Wal-Mart to build a second Lacey store in a predominantly residential area near Yelm Highway.

Construction is already underway at the Lacey Hawks Prairie location, five miles east of the proposed Yelm Highway site in South Lacey.

Increased traffic problems, higher crime rates, decreased property values, and poor-paying jobs were a few of the objections raised by residents living near the proposed site.

"I object profusely to Wal-Mart coming into our neighborhood," said Tammy Wight, soon to be next-door neighbors with Wal-Mart if the amendment passes. "It's very intrusive and very offensive to have this in my backyard."

During the five-hour hearing, city staff outlined the many changes Wal-Mart would bring to the Summer Walk Village Center, a largely vacant 105 acre parcel on Yelm Highway between Ruddell Road and College Street.

The original 1997 zoning plan for the center envisioned tree-lined boulevards intersecting high, low, and medium residential areas with grass-covered turnabouts that slowed traffic to a neighborly pace. The southwest portion's "community/commercial" zoning stipulates a mix of business and community uses for a "town center" feel. The plan required "neighborhood focal-points" fostering a "sense of place" and "pedestrian circulation" through "walkable links."

Under the amended plan, nearly all of the community/commercial zone and a portion of a residential zone would be saddled by the bulk of a 225, 450 square-foot Wal-Mart store. A residential zone on College Street would be relocated to the boarder of Yelm Highway, while Summer Walk's total residential zoning would be reduced by five percent.

Wal-Mart representatives presented a store plan at the hearing they say takes Summer Walk's zoning requirements into account, promotes community interaction, and maintains a "Northwest" aesthetic.

"[This design] is unique for the Wal-Mart chain," said Ken Rowan, an architect employed by Wal-Mart.

Rowan highlighted a peaked roof entrance tacked to the proposed store's otherwise concrete block construction. The entry, accented by timber beams and ceder shingles, would create a "soft, warm backdrop" for the super store, Rowan said

"I think this sets a tone and regional theme for the facility," he said.

Beyond the entry and front-store gables, Rowan's design drawings depict the bulk of the proposed fading into white, gently blurring acres of the great gray box behind the pleasant facade.

But this Wal-Mart, unlike most others, will not simply be one big square, Rowan was quick to point out. A large front-side dent in the overall box-shaped building revealed a bike rack and outdoor tables.

"This will be a positive outdoor space where neighbors can stop and talk before shopping," he said.

But the neighborhood wasn't having it.

"Wal-Mart is not a community business," said Kathy Podowicz, the owner of a house across Yelm Highway from the Summer Walk. "It doesn't belong in a residential area. Wal-Mart will destroy our nice community."

Podowicz contested Wal-Mart representatives' claim that the store aimed to be a neighborhood center, citing the wide-ranging draw Wal-Marts have on surrounding areas, which serve a region rather than a neighborhood.

Echoing the testimony of over a dozen other Lacey residents at the hearing, Podowicz also voiced concern about the large volume of traffic Wal-Mart will attract.

"Wal-Mart will make a bad traffic situation worse," Podowicz said.

According to Lacey Transportation Manager Martin Hoppe, Wal-Mart is expected to generate 12, 159 additional auto trips a day in the Summer Walk area. This is in addition to Lacey City Engineer Roger Schessler's estimate of 30,000 trips a day already using Yelm Highway.

Wight said her son cannot ride his bike or walk to school safely due to the already large volumes of high speed traffic in the area. She said her son also objects to the planned construction of a new road to accommodate Wal-Mart that will border his school's track field.

"He has Olympic Track dreams," Wight said. "But how can he run with all that smoke?'"

Podowicz gathered 200 signatures in her neighborhood petitioning the city to install at least two more traffic lights at Yelm Highway's border with Armour Drive and Sarazan Street to aid in left turns onto the highway. Podowicz also said her petition demanded a tall cinder block wall to block noise and views of the unsightly super store.

But for Wight, concessions such as these still wouldn't be enough.

"When Wal-Mart comes, my property value will go down twenty percent," Wight said, referring to an estimate provided by an area real estate agent. "So I think Wal-Mart should make up that twenty percent!"

In response, Wal-Mart Project Manager Bill Dunning offered: "Growth is painful for some people. But Wal-Mart fits the [commercial zoning] codes. I would have hoped [Wight] would have consulted the codes [before buying her property]."

Jack McCullough, another Wal-Mart representative added: "This will be a Wal-Mart store unlike any other in the state of Washington," he said. "Wal-

(Continued page 11)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred) or via e-mail. Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/ black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, <wip@olywa.net>

Back Issues:

Get your catalog of indexed WIPs below. Some back issues are available in the Olympia Timberland Library. WIP is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

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"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

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We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Governing Tool:

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

Friday, Mar. 22nd

Proofreading Meeting

Monday, Mar. 25th 6:30pm at Olympia Downtown Library

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Dance O' Dance

Dance O' Dance is now being taped LIVE on the 1st Friday of the month. It's still all-ages, all genders, smoke & alcohol free, featuring independent NW artists. Special arrangements can be made to showcase a prepared dance of any style. 943-5440 March 1st, April 5th, May 3rd, June 7th

New AIDS outreach and education programs

United Communities AIDS Network (UCAN) is currently offering two new programs in the outreach and education departments. UCAN has begun a new outreach service for HIV-positive people who are not currently seeing a doctor. UCAN will arrange two visits with an HIV primary care provider and provide clients with $40 in food vouchers. It is free and confidential. The program will allow clients to recieve a medical evaluation and follow-up so that clients can check on their health and discuss appropriate treatment options. There is no committment required to start treatment. The goal of the program is for clients to recieve the necessary information to make an informed choice about their health care. This program is directed at low-income and homeless HIV-positive people in Thurston County but is open to all. Call Outreach at 561-6120 anytime.

In addition to our new outreach service, UCAN has new HIV/AIDS education programs available. UCAN will be providing the community with HIV/ AIDS education workshops including the four and seven hour HIV/AIDS trainings that meet state requirements for professionals. Fees are $30 per person for the four hour and $50 per person for the seven hour. Non-profit discounts are available. Other workshops will have a flexible fee.

For more information or to schedule, contact the UCAN Prevention Educator at 352-2375.

Weekly peace vigils

PEACE VIGIL, noon to 1 p.m. in NW corner of Sylvester Park (corner of Legion & Capitol Way) EVERY WEDNESDAY. We provide signs or you may bring your own. Please come for all or part of the hour to witness for peace and nonviolence. Sponsor: Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation Info: 491-9093 glen@olywa.net

PEACE VIGIL, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. on 4th Ave near the fountain EVERY FRIDAY. Our demeanor and signs are friendly and positive, urging lifting the economic sanctions on Iraq and promoting peace and human rights in light of the current international crisis. Olympia FOR provides signs or you may bring your own. Info: call 867-1731 or 491-9093. E-Mail: glen@olywa.net

May Day May Day!

May Day planning meetings every Tuesday 6:30pm at the Rise & Shine Cafe (next door to the Olympia Food Co-op). Bring yourself and everyone you know to help make this May Day the raddest ever!

Also, there is a Total Liberation lecture and workshop series going on at Evergreen leading up to May Day. If you would like to bring a speaker, become a speaker, hold a workshop, or just want to help put the whole thing together, come to the meetings held every Thursday at 4:30pm in the S&A offices on the third floor of the CAB building at Evergreen.

Women of color in labor and community struggles

Friday and Saturday, March 1-2

Conference features Friday evening keynote address "Culture and Politics of Black Women's Labor Struggles;" Saturday morning panel discussing Central American, Caribbean, Asian and Native American women working in the US; Saturday afternoon workshops; and strategy session. $25 includes lunch. (Saturday dinner $20 more). Sponsors: TESC's Labor Center and UW's Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies. Location: TESC's Tacoma campus, 1210 6th Ave (between L and M streets). Info: Lucilene Whitesell 867-5038 whitesel@evergreen.edu

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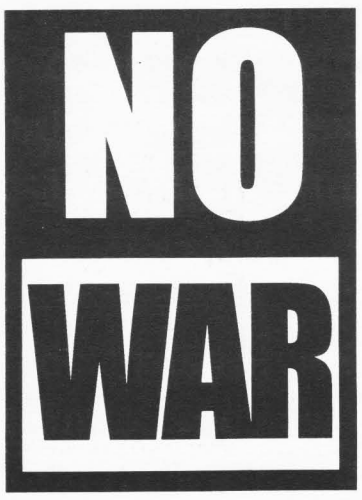

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MARCH 2002

Women workers fudged at Wal★Mart

→ The largest corporate employee in the US, Wal*Mart has over 925,000 workers. "Each year, the company hires 550,000 employees, replacing those lost to rapid turnover and replenishing its workforce."

→ The average Wal*Mart employee takes home less than $200 a week or about $11,700 a year. Full-time employees (28-40 hrs/wk) make $6-$7.50. Part-time workers, one-third of all Wal*Mart employees, receive no benefits and no job security.

→ Women make up 72% of Wal*Mart's workforce, while "men hold 90% of top store manager positions and more than two-thirds of store management positions overall."

→ "Women seeking promotions have been told that women with children can't be managers, that women cannot effectively manage men. Those are stereotypes we have heard from a number of sources. It's not a localized, isolated perspective."

-- Joseph M. Sellers, co-lead counsel for the Wal*Mart women

Sources: Forbes.com; Business Week; WalMartyrs; UFCW

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
I liked my immediate supervisor at Wal*Mart very much. She was a middle-aged lady, not authoritarian. She had a lot of good ideas about how to improve our department — none of which were ever acted upon, because she had no authority herself. She was fine...						**1** **2001**: South Sound declared disaster area **2001**: Seattle Mayor Schell says "no more Fat Tuesday"
2 **2001**: Olympia official announces there will be no buildings in Olympia demolished due to the earthquake	**3** **2001**: Gale Norton says economy/property rights high priorities over efforts to protect the environment	**4** **1829**: Jackson's "just policy for Indians" **1930**: Coolidge dam flooding native land dedicated	**5** **1831**: Supreme Court rules Cherokee are capable of governing themselves, and managing own affairs.	**6** **2001**: Locke announces state signed agreement to build power plant in Chehalis by 2003	**7** **2001**: Bill to remove repetitive-motion safety rules passes the US House and is on its way to the Oval Office	**8** **2001**: Holly Gadbaw won't seek reelection **2001**: Japan's finance minister says finances are near collapse
9 **2001**: Three doctors from US, Israel, Italy announce intent to clone humans and that no one can stop them	**10** **2001**: OPD arrest 4 of 15 people parading down Washington St banging on drums, and wearing raincoats	**11** **1891**: Army tries to recruit Indians as troops. **2001**: Repairs to Capitol Campus estimated at $70.2 million	**12** **2001**: Judge approves $742 million for TWA **2001**: Taco Bell workers win suit over altered time cards	**13** **1864**: 1st Navajos finish the "Long Walk" to Fort Sumner on the Bosque Redondo Reservation in N. Mexico	**14** **2001**: A British study released shows that greenhouse gases are altering the Earth's atmosphere	**15** **2001**: Senate passes new bankruptcy laws **2001**: Texas appeals court upholds the state's sodomy law
16 **2001**: County cop & Sheriff Edwards break car windows after California driver refuses to roll down window	**17** **1775**: Transylvania Co purchase western and central Kentucky, and north central Tennessee from Cherokee	**18** **2001**: Justice Dept study reveals Native Americans twice as likely to be victims of violent crime	**19** **1840**: San Antonio: Southern Cheyenne meet with whites to discuss peace, and to trade prisoners. Armed	**20** **1995**: Judge bars Pentagon from discharging 6 gays, rules Clinton's "don't ask, don't tell" policy unconstitutional	**21** **1996**: British gov admits link of Mad Cow disease and 10 deaths **2001**: Boeing moving headquarters from WA	**22** **2001**: Feb 28th prison uprising at Two River Correctional Institution, OR reported due to White supremacists
23 **2001**: County pays $100,000 for unlawful arrest/prosecution **2001**: Boeing to move 500 workers to Kansas	**24** **1989**: Exxon Valdez runs aground in Prince William Sound, and leaks 11 million gallons of crude oil	**25** **2001**: Energy secretary Abraham pushes for oil drilling in the Arctic national Wildlife Refuge	**26** **2001**: Buford Furrow is given 5 life terms for shooting spree at San Fernando Valley Jewish community center	**27** **2001**: Feds okay temp 4th Ave Bridge **2001**: CA Utilities Commission asks for 46% increase in rates	**28** **190**: US takes full control over Dominican revenues **1979**: Three Mile Island accident	**29** **2000**: Safety panel warns bulging canister of plutonium have not been adequately monitored at Hanford
30 **2001**: Gov Lock capitulates to Bush, abandons state's commitment to hire only union contractors	**31** **2001**: Meta Heller formerly kicks off Gubernatorial campaign **2001**: $30 car tab become law	...but the person above her was an asshole. He was a guy in his mid-twenties who delighted in exerting his authority. He was constantly calling us together for absolutely useless meetings. Barbara Ehrenreich on her job at Wal*Mart, interview in the *Multinational Monitor*				

Native poet, activist set to rock Olympia

Gary Galbreath

Native poet/activist John Trudell is coming to town.

Yeah, I know you are thinking, "so what, he comes nearly every spring." True, yet this time he's bringing his band Bad Dog, and a show full of material from the new recording "Bone Days" released by Daemon Records.

Olympia's show will be the last in a a whirlwind West Coast benefit tour for community and college radio stations. The tour begins on March 13, in Berkeley, California.

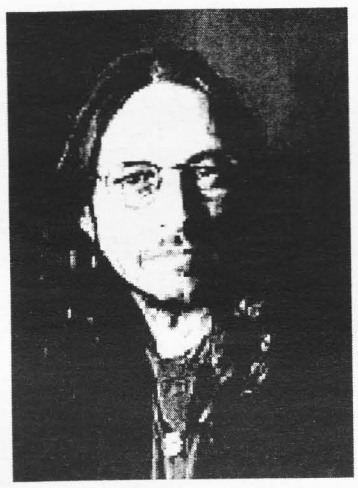
The Olympia event on March 21st will benefit Evergreen's 89.3 FM KAOS.

The venue: why the historic Capital Theater of course. Showime is 7 PM, March 21, with doors opening at 6pm. Advance tickets are available at Rainy Day Records for $10.00 general admission/$8.00 students. Tickets will also be available at the door. Copies of "Bone Days" will be available at Rainy Day Records as well as the night of the show.

Trudell says the tour will raise small amounts of money, but more importantly - they are a means to affirm, profile, and nurture the work of local, commercial free radio stations. That is the primary goal.

"In a society where the people are supposed to have the right of usage of public airwaves, the right of usage of those airwaves is becoming more and more dominated by private and commercial interests, thus denying the people a voice in the society," said Trudell.

"In this age of unlimited information and a shrinking public voice, we understand the necessity of keeping that voice alive and active. We feel at this point and time, in the history of this democracy, that public, college, and community radio is a vehicle and opportunity the people still



have for expressing their voice. A strong public voice is vital and necessary to the overall balance and good of the society."

Born in 1946 in Omaha, Nebraska, Trudell grew up on and around the nearby Santee Sioux Reservation. Trudell became acquainted with economic hardship at an early age. His mother died when he was six, leaving his father to care for his large family.

During the years that followed, Trudell's contempt for the dominant "american way of life" deepened along with his outrage at poverty and racism.

In 1963 Trudell found himself in the military.

"I went in for economic reasons and picked the navy because I wanted to minimize my chances of becoming a rifle toting target," he said. "But the experience did teach me that what was happening to me as an Indian, a prisoner of america, was happening to others all over the world."

Actress Angelina Jolie, a huge supporter as well as producer of Trudell's recent recording said, "more spirit than man, yet more human than most, John Trudell is an amazing artist. His vision is honest, pure and strong. He speaks the truth and does it beautifully. His music has a heartbeat. For a people with no voice -- he is a man who will not be silenced. I offered to be executive producer, because I believe in John Trudell's message, and I want people to hear it."

For more information about the West Coast tour, log on to: www.johntrudell.com.

For questions concerning the Olympia show, call the Capital Theater at (360) 754-5378 or leave an e-mail at viewfromtheshore@yahoo.com

Tune in to KAOS 89.3 FM to hear Gary Galbreath host *Mole Medicine* on Wednesdays from 8 to 9 PM and *View from the Shore* on Sunday from 6 to 8 PM.

TRANSIT IN PERIL

In late February, House leaders in Olympia released a statewide transportation package that ignores the will of Washington voters.

The nearly $5.6 billion dollar proposal dedicates nearly ninety percent of its funding to highway projects. This is the same percentage as I-745, which voters rejected just over a year ago. The plan disregards the importance of bus service, intercity rail, passenger only ferries and commute trip reduction.

The worst part of the House proposal is that it includes more money for one road project ($800 million for I-405) than for the ENTIRE state budget for transit, rail, trip reduction and passenger-only ferries combined ($718 million) over the next ten years.

This is unacceptable. Please Call the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-562-6000 and leave a message for your Representatives. Let them know how you feel about this.

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Peace movement potentials and strategies

Glen Anderson

The peace movement has more growth potential than people assume, and we could make more progress by adapting strategies and approaches that are already working. The Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) can offer examples.

Those who participated in the Olympia FOR's 26th annual Christmas Peace Vigil on December 15 experienced a lot of support from people in the cars driving past. There is much more support for peace than the government wants us to know.

That vigil – and the Olympia FOR's weekly vigils – create opportunities for hundreds of passersby to honk or wave their support. Perhaps this is their first opportunity to "come out of the closet" as peace supporters. We enjoy giving them this first nudge, and we also create more opportunities to join a growing movement.

That is precisely our strategy. The government and news media proclaim that all Americans support the war, but the truth is that many millions oppose it altogether and many more millions are seriously troubled by some aspects of the war abroad and/or the war against civil liberties at home. The peace movement's strategic roles and tasks include (but are not limited to):

* Helping people know they are not alone in opposing the war
* Expressing the peace message in ways that new or undecided people can understand and appreciate
* Giving people courage and support to learn more and deepen convictions
* Inspiring and motivating people to actions.

I often wear a button that says, "When the people lead, eventually the leaders will follow." Thomas Jefferson and others founded this nation on the premise that the people are in charge – that we create and own the government. The American Left, the American Right, and the American Middle-of-the-Road all agree that we want more democracy and less arrogance from our federal government. We should be able to use traditional American values to mobilize people to stop the Bush/Ashcroft power grab that would take away our freedom and civil liberties.

Likewise, in almost everyone's inner core is an innate concern for fairness and human rights. Almost everyone wants to live in a world with less violence and more security. The confusion comes when the government pursues policies that it claims will stop other people's violence and make us secure. Millions of Americans have a gut-feeling that violence is the problem (not the solution) and that causing turmoil and anger among people in other countries will end up making the US less secure.

Such contradictions can be upsetting for people who are not used to "thinking outside the box." If people find it too hard to take the leap toward a politics of peace, they retreat to the comfort of the "conventional wisdom" that militarism makes us secure and free. The peace movement needs to help people make the transition to nonviolent consciousness. We can do that by removing barriers that the peace movement sometimes unwittingly sets up and lowering the threshold so it will be easier to cross over to our side. Barriers can be either explicit or implicit.

Occasionally peace demonstrations are negated by angry attitudes and behaviors that implicitly contradict the explicit message. Who would want to join a group of grumpy people? In contrast, the Olympia FOR's vigils are warm, friendly and engaging. Our friendly demeanor helps to attract support for our message and spontaneous participation from passersby. People stop to talk with us. Many agree, but we are friendly even with those who disagree.

We want to give even those who disagree an interesting and pleasant experience. We don't expect to convert them to pacifism, but we do want to give them a fresh way to think about some issue, and we want them to see peace folks as human beings who are approachable, well informed, reasonable, and respectful.

Especially since September 11 I have been deliberately devising vigil signs with messages that will cause passersby to find themselves agreeing with us and resonating in positive ways. Certainly a sign that says "Stop the bombing" would be clear and explicit, but that message would not engage other people – indeed, it conveys a subtle vibe that is rather bossy and blaming. In contrast, our sign saying "Imagine nonviolent solutions" is open, expansive and engaging. It invites people to be creative – to be part of the solution.

Likewise, instead of a sign denouncing the US's foreign policy as racist, we have signs saying, "All races are one human family" and "Make friends across races, nationalities, religions, ..." Instead of accusing people of racism, our signs call forth their better natures and invite them to take simples but practical steps. The result is a tremendous number of positive responses from passersby.

So if they find themselves agreeing with us, how could they simultaneously allow the government to persist in its violent and inhumane policies? We hope to create some internal struggling over these inconsistencies (some "cognitive dissonance" in psychological jargon), because we have faith that if people open themselves to a peace perspective and wrestle with their consciences, they will find the truth and choose peaceful solutions instead of violent ones.

We receive support from people of all ages, races and appearances – and in all kinds of vehicles. Some of the drivers and passengers who show their support have flags on their cars. Some of the people waving or giving a "thumbs-up" are probably doing their very first overt action for peace. We create opportunities for people to take these first steps and then to do more. One of our new vigilers after September 11 made a sign saying, "Speak out for justice and peace, even if your voice trembles."

Many passersby tell us they deeply appreciate our presence and our persistence. Our two one-hour vigils every week – and our explicit and implicit messages – along with the activities of other local peace groups – have been establishing peace as a perfectly legitimate and mainstream in Olympia. We are indeed creating "a culture of peace and nonviolence," as urged by the United Nations General Assembly, which in 1999 declared 2001-2010 to be the U.N. Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence.

Every day we continue to meet new people and link them with other folks who are working for peace, social justice, and nonviolence. Every day we are building a movement!

Make a difference (and make money) in Olympia

Mission Creek Housing Collective

About us

The Mission Creek Housing Collective (MCHC) is currently looking for individuals who will make loans (or donations) towards creating self-sustaining, permanent, and affordable housing in Olympia.

We are working to develop and maintain cooperatively-run property in guided by a local non-profit, life affirming, and environmentally sustainable organization.

The sight we would like to purchase for the community is located at 2129 Bethel St. N.E. (you may know it by the name "Kindermeadow", in reference to a day care service once run on the site). It's just over a mile from downtown Olympia, on the bus line, half-way between Roosevelt Elementary and Priest Point Park. The property consists of approximately five acres of land and already has a huge garden space, a massive "meadow" for community gatherings, living spaces for up to 10 people, a greenhouse, a large outdoor arts and crafts studio, and an area on which more dwellings spaces could be built. (It also houses the county's first registered composting toilet!) The south and west sides of the property are in the steep, wooded ravine of Mission Creek.

Making it happen

The current homeowner, Dorothy Craig (a longtime member of the Sustainable Community Roundtable) hopes to sell the house to MCHC by May 1st, 2002. The asking price is $265,000.

We would like to avoid securing loans from the traditional (banking) sector so we can be assured that our mortgage payments will remain in our community. Two members have agreed to put up a total of $25,000 of their own money to the co-op. We are having discussions with several local individuals who have expressed interest in making direct loans to the MCHC, but we are going to need more help from community investors!

Why invest in cooperative housing?

1. Cooperative ownership removes property from the profit-driven real estate market so that equity can be used for the benefit of the community, not a landlord. And not just for one house: as equity is accumulated by the housing cooperative this money can be used as collateral to take out loans for new houses starting a cycle of expansion of cooperative ownership of housing in Olympia. This strategy of reinvestment has been so successful that in several cities (such as Austin, TX; Ann Arbor, MI; Madison, WI; Berkeley, CA) cooperative, resident- controlled organizations have become some of the largest owners of housing in the city.

2. Because Co-ops are long-term projects, residents have greater opportunity for developing environmentally sustainable lifestyles. Cooperative housing encourages water and energy efficiency and residents reduces the number of single-occupant car trips. Bulk purchasing makes purchasing local and organic food and environmentally friendly products easier.

3. Co-op residents enjoy a strong sense of both community values and individual empowerment. Residents work across differences to make the decisions that effect their lives, encouraging a commitment to participatory democracy.

4. Because it's profitable: MCHC can work with lenders to establish personalized loans suited towards mutual needs.

We guarantee a fixed rate of return. Each month you will receive a payment of interest and principle. The yield from this may work out to be higher than money invested in the stock market, treasury bills, bonds, and bank CDs.

Your loan is backed by real wealth - the property itself. In the unfortunate case of the co-op dissolving, all loans would be paid back from the sale of the house. All of our loan agreements will be reviewed and endorsed by a lawyer and reviewed by loan managers. Our minimum investment amount is only $1000. Our minimum loan term limit is only one year, and we can offer competitive interest rates.

Donations

Yes, please. Every dollar we raise as a donation, is a dollar less we'll be paying back with added interest on a loan. We also have a significant amount of upfront predevelopment costs for things like inspections, appraisals, etc. Through an agreement with a 501c3 umbrella group, your donation is tax-deductible.

This is a unique opportunity

The property MCHC is hoping to purchase lies well inside city limits, making it a unique resource for the community.

We have the chance to create a community-owned space in Olympia with all of the permanence of invaluable community resources like WIP, the Food Co-op, or Media Island. The space allowed for this article is only enough to tell you a little about us.

Please contact us for more information at (360) 705-2618, Kindermeadow@onebox.com, or visit our website at www.olynetwork.org/Kindermeadow/

U.S. Foreign Policy in Iran

The making of an 'Axis of Evil'

Ron Jacobs

I'm not sure where GW Bush was in 1979, but he must remember something about the popular uprising of the Iranian people that overthrew the US's biggest puppet in the region -- the Shah. Although the revolution had been brewing for years, in 1978 and early 1979 there were huge demonstrations against his rule by all sectors of Iranian society. These demonstrations took place in Iran's cities, her oilfields, her mosques and other places of worship, and finally within her military. Hundreds (perhaps thousands) were killed by the Shah's military and secret police, the SAVAK. The movement involved social democrats, communists of all kinds, students, peasants, urban intellectuals and middle classes, and Islamists of every stripe -- fundamentalists to radicals. It was a truly popular movement that resulted in the Shah leaving the country in disgrace on January 16, 1979.

After his departure, there was a power struggle for control of the new revolutionary government. At first, the secular radicals had the upper hand and it looked like Iran might become the first socialist state in that region of the world. Unfortunately, this was not to be the case. Within days of the Shah's exile, the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini had reentered the country from his exile in France, where he had been living and secretly organizing opposition to the Shah's regime since he had been forced out of the country after the CIA-sponsored coup that replaced the populist nationalist leader Muhammad Mossadegh with the Shah in 1953. Mossadegh had called for nationalization of the country's oil and a re-negotiation of all the contracts between Iran and the big oil companies. Of course, such a call has never been popular with the oil companies and the governments that serve them, especially that of the United States. This was the primary motivation behind the CIA-sponsored overthrow.

Khomeini had been part of the resistance to the Shah in the 1950s, also. His strict interpretation of the Koran and his position as one of the highest Imams in Shi'a Islam gave him an large and devoted following. After all, to the faithful he was closer to Allah than anyone else and to resist his will was tantamount to resisting Allah's will. After Mossadegh's deposition and arrest, the Shah moved back onto the Peacock Throne and begin to rid the country of any opposition to his rule. He was helped tremendously by the US government and its various agencies. Khomeini was exiled and took up residence in France where he lived on funds that were partially provided by the French intelligence services and the CIA, who preferred his religious-based radicalism to that of the communists and socialists in Iran. Both of these latter groups had strong support among workers in the oil extraction and refinement industry, as well as among students.

The Shah undertook some minimal land reforms and secularized Iranian culture. This latter action was a double-edged sword for the Shah. While it created a huge base of technicians and intellectuals that were needed for the expanding economy in Iran, it also provided these young people with the tools for a critical analysis of Iran's role in the US empire -- a role many students and intellectuals found subservient and counter to the best interests of the Iranian people. At the same time, the secularization of Iranian society was met with religious-based fear in in the provinces, where the Koran proscribed daily existence and religious leaders feared losing their followers to the temptations of secular capitalist culture. This contradiction was the breeding ground for the revolution which eventually brought down the Shah and his regime.

In 1974, when I began working with Iranian students intent on bringing down the Shah and replacing his government with a popular regime, there were already divisions within the Iranian Student Association (ISA). This group was a coalition of Iranian students in the United States who were devoted to revolution. Although the secular faction had the upper hand when I first began working with the Washington, DC branch as a liaison between them and a radical student organization I belonged to at the University of Maryland, it wasn't long before the Islamists were the larger group, both in the DC area and nationally. Nonetheless, the various factions

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UP FRONT

A prescedent of power?

Jerome Johnson

About a week or so ago, a fellow Green Party member shared a February 14 *Guardian* article by Seumas Milne, a British journalist, about the (ab)use of American power in the "war on terror."

Like many Europeans today, Milne shared a concern that the US is "without precedent" the world's most powerful nation, so much so that it's ignoring NATO allies and targeting the "Axis of Evil" at will. Milne shares the concern that for all the "consultation" and other window dressing, the Bush administration has never really let go of its unilateralist, "we'll-go-it-alone-'cause we can, regardless of you" attitude toward world affairs. He's worried that the US is so powerful that it may not be able to be defeated by an enemy—most likely one of America's own "creation."

America's power absolutely has precedent—the British Empire. At its height in the late 19th and 20th centuries it was every bit as powerful as the US is today. Arguably more so, relevant to the time. And while the British Empire continued for centuries, the American Empire is only in its fifth decade. (of course that's too long).

I understand Milne's concerns, but he overlooks a few points:

* Of course the US can be defeated. The Vietnamese did it, and so did the Nicaraguans in the '80s. Some folks argue that even the Iranians and Lebanese in the '80s and the Somalis in the '90s successfully intimidated the US.
* While they're wringing their hands, US allies need to remember something the Administration may have forgotten: to achieve these bellicose goals—"alone" or not—the US needs the bases in their countries to operate. Bases=political leverage, as we learned during the cruise missile controversy of the 1980s.
* Most important, the US is nearly overextended as it is. That's why the Marines have such a prominent rol e in Afghanistan—the US Army is committed in the Balkans with tens of thousands of troops. The kind of operations the administration is considering in Iraq would take the entire Army and much of the Marines, plus allied troops. It took nearly the whole US military to accomplish Desert Storm, and conquering/occupying Iraq will take at least 2 times the 750,000 US forces of Desert Storm. That means bringing back the draft, which won't be popular. Iraq is nothing like Afghanistan, and it will take more than Special Froces units to get Dubya's revenge. It will also mean casualties, and you can have only so many plane and helicopter crashes.
* Getting Saddam will be a lot harder than getting Osama or Mullah Omar—both of whom have eluded US forces since October.
* Even if the US succeeds in somehow occupying Iraq, what if the Iraqis begin an insurgency?
* Fighting the Iranians (insane idea!!) would be even more difficult than fighting the Iraqis. Politics and right/wrong aside, WHERE would the US stage from? I doubt Bahrain and Oman would be big enough. Maybe those new bases in Tajikstan, Uzbekistan, etc.? Talk about ingratitude—the Iranians allowed the US to use its airspace and offered to help downed US aircraft in the Afghanistan war. In return, and without cause or provocation, the Iranians get labeled an "axis of evil" and painted with a bull's eye. I sure hope no US service personnel have to come down in Iran.
* Fighting the Koreans again is dumbest of all—especially now that the Chinese have nuclear weapons. I guess no one in Dubya's administration remembers what happened the last time we had a war with Korea. Most difficult to understand: in recent years,both N. Korea and Iran have been quietly negotiating peace. Talks began under Clinton and were going slow but well. Then Dubya swaggered in and ruined everything. Why Powell allows it, I don't understand. I guess being Sec. State is more important than doing the right thing.

Any one of these would involve a major war, over years of time. Untold hunger, disease, suffering, death for countless people. And for what? Hubris? Votes? Revenge? Accolades from bloodthirsty Americans?

I don't mean to minimize these empires or refute Milne, I'm just trying to put it in perspective.

As I write this, US Special Forces are in at least battalion strength in the southern Philippines. There are eerie echoes of Vietnam:

* once again, US troops are involved in a southeast Asian, jungle conflict.
* once again, practically nothing about it is being shared with the American people—or Congress.
* once again, Congress is allowing it to happen with a rubber stamp instead of hard questions.
* once again, heavily armed and well-equipped US forces are going in to "advise" indigenous troops. A cowed media is soothing us that these troops are just "advisers"—even though they're heavily armed and going into combat zones, we're somehow supposed to believe that US forces won't be engaged in direct combat.
* and once again—just like Vietnam—no one is questioning it as it starts.

Is it just me, or does anyone else have a problem with this?

In Afghanistan, civilians die when US forces make mistakes.

In Nepal, the government extends a state of emergency to cope with a long-running insurrection.

In Los Angeles, Halle Berry await Oscar night.

And in Olympia, City Councilmember Matthew Green stands up for union workers on the 4th Avenue Bridge.

U.S. Foreign Policy in Israel

The illegal occupation of Palestine

Tom Wright

On January 3, when Israeli commandos seized a ship in the Red Sea loaded with weapons allegedly being smuggled to the Palestinian Authority, the media reacted with alarm to the so-called Ship of Terror.

The nature of the weaponry was prominently detailed: 211 antitank mines, 735 hand grenades, 62 122-mm Katyusha rockets. *The New York Times* solemnly wrote: "...for many Israelis, the weapons came as conclusive proof that Mr. Arafat was girding for war..." the *Times*' editorialists viewed this event as another Palestinian "provocation" that happens "every time Washington appears to make a little progress" in its ongoing search for peace.

If it is actually established that the arms were destined for Arafat, this may yet again "preclude further discussion" with the Palestinians, the *Times* advised, since this would "violate the Oslo Peace Agreements with Israel".

The US accuses Iran of sending the clandestine delivery, and Washington evidently sees this as an international transgression of the utmost gravity. President Bush used no less august a forum than the State of the Union address to link Iran to a global "axis of evil". This remark prompted millions of Iranians to join anti-US demonstrations in February, and strengthened the country's hard-line elements against its popular reformist president, Muhammad Khatami.

In this light, it is interesting to explore more deeply the US efforts to "mediate" the Mideast conflict. It is quite true, first of all, that the Oslo Agreements prohibit Palestinian weapons imports. Only Israel has this right, which it has certainly exercised. Since 1993, the year the "peace" accord was signed, Israel has received a whopping $10 billion in arms from—you guessed—the ever-neutral USA, making Israel the fourth largest recipient of our arms transfers.

These are no mere boatloads of mines and grenades, incidentally. We sent 110 F-16 fighter jets, which bomb and strafe Palestinian towns and villages, destroying large buildings in densely populated areas. We sent armored attack helicopters, used with much notoriety in the current uprising to fire rockets at unarmed civilians. In one such attack, a car at a busy intersection was bombarded by missiles fired from Apache helicopters on December 11 in the town of Hebron. Two children were killed, including two-year-old Birhan al-Himouni, whose dismembered body landed in the street.

The helicopters were manufactured by the Boeing Company, which last February agreed to sell Israel nine more of these weapons for $500 million. This transaction occured despite a campaign by major human rights and peace groups to stop such sales because of Israel's "excessive force". Amnesty International particularly objected to US helicoptors used "in punitive rocket attacks where there was no imminent danger to life", to "fire on Palestinian civilians, including children, and to carry out extrajudicial executions."

The U.S. also supplied F-15 jets, 15 Blackhawk helicopters, up to 25 F-151 fighter bombers, as well as artillary rounds, missles, and anti-tank rockets numbering in the hundreds of thousands. The US handed Israeli foot soldiers the 65,000 Colt rifles, 2,469 M-204 grenade launchers, and 1500 Browning machine guns used in Palestinian streets and neighborhoods. This partial list should also include a mention of the US-supplied armored bulldozers currently used to level Palestinian homes and destroy agricultural land on a massive scale.

About the only thing we don't seem to want sent are international observers. Despite wide-spread demand for their presence, we obstruct observers with another of our weapons - the Security Council Veto, used to ensure Israel can attack the defenseless population with impunity. We vetoed observers twice last year, most recently on December 14, in the wake of the Hebron helicopter killings.

Since the *Times* editors are policing compliance with the Oslo Agreements, why do they ignore the tenet that required Israel to maintain the "territorial integrity" of the West Bank and Gaza during the Interim Period? How meticulously did Israel comply? Well, in only seven years of the "Peace Process" Israel managed to double the number of West Bank settlers to 200,000; the number of East Jerusalem settlers grew from 22,000 to 170,000 while the city has now been off-limits to most Palestinians for nine years. Thousands of dunums of Arab land were confiscated for new settlements and over 400 kilometers of new Jewish-only roads were constructed, dissecting the Palestinians into some 200 isolated Apartheid-style bantustans.

3.2 million Palestinians are prevented from reaching jobs or transporting goods or crops to market. Dusk-to-dawn curfews block Palestinians from reaching emergency medical treatment. 200 patients are unable to receive kidney dialysis, cancer patients can't reach hospitals and women give birth at the countless military checkpoints that fence them in. Food and gas shortages have brought a state of emergency to much of the Territories, and the entire population is at the mercy of Ariel Sharon's troops that blanket the land in tanks and armored personnel carriers. Over 900 have been killed in 16 months, and 25,000 injured.

And, while on the topic of signed agreements, how about the little matter of the Fourth Geneva Convention, a binding international humanitarian law that governs Israel's behavior in the Occupied Territories? Surely the *Times* editors recall Article 49: "The Occupying Power shall not...transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies" (Israel has a total of 400,000 illegal settlers). Or Article 55, which forbids the pillaging of resources (Israel has diverted eighty percent of Palestinian water for its own use, limiting Arab access to the point of scarcity, even shutting off the supply to whole cities). Israel has flouted nearly every provision of the law on a massive scale through torture, deportation, the annexation of East Jerusalem, demolition ofvillages and homes, the use of collective punishment, and on and on, for thirty-five years.

Furthermore, many of these violations constitute "grave breaches" of the Convention, and are therefore war crimes, which the US, as one of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention, is obligated to prosecute.

The simple truth is that this conflict is about but Palestinian land from which Israel is bound under international law to withdraw from. Israel is in no position to make "concessions" of any kind regarding any of the twenty-two percent of historic Palestine, comprised of the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem. Israel does not have the slightest legal claim to the smallest scrap of this land. The obligation to withdraw is in no way diminished by the agreements reached under the Oslo framework. The protections of the Fourth Geneva Convention remain in effect until full withdrawal is implemented and until the end of the occupier's control over civilian lives. Article 1 of the Convention states: "Protected persons may in no circumstances renounce in part or in entirety the rights secured to them by the present Convention..." This provision was included to guard against precisely the kind of arrangements that the Oslo Agreements constitute: a grossly lopsided, quisling-style framework whose imbalances arise from the very fact of occupation.

Although this remains the legal underpinning to Palestinian rights on their territory, the mainstream press presents a rather different picture. Recall the press coverage of the Camp David negotiations of July 2000. At this summit, Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Barak failed to conclude the "final status" agreement envisioned as the end stage of the Oslo Accords, a failure which set the stage for the current Intifada, or uprising, that began two months later. Mainstream US coverage was so monolithic in its analysis that there may literally have been no exceptions to the view portrayed: that Arafat had rejected a genuine peace offer, the most far-reaching terms that Israel could realistically be asked to concede. Barak was said to have offered "ninety-five percent" of the West Bank, and part of Jerusalem, compromises that were almost unthinkable to his Israeli constituency.

But Arafat instead chose the path of violence and war. This supposed Palestinian rejectionism has furnished Israel with considerable leeway in its use of military power against the uprising (why, after all, negotiate with an enemy bent only on violence?) and is integral to the ludicrous campaign to portray Israel as the victim. What then were the terms of the Camp David proposals that Arafat ultimately rejected?

Israel proposed to annex three massive settlement blocs in the West Bank, incorporating some 250,000 settlers, as well as 80-100,000 Palestinians who would be outside Palestinian control. These settlements would broadly encircle Jerusalem, effectively cutting the West Bank in half. Israel would keep the huge Jordan Valley area for the time being, though it would supposedly revert to Palestinian control later (hardly a sure bet, given that Israel had not even completed the redeployments it had committed to in earlier phases of Oslo).

Palestinian areas of the West Bank would be divided into noncontiguous cantons, crisscrossed by a vast network of Israeli roads which connect the various Jewish-only settlements. The roads, too, are only for Jews, and Palestinians may not even cross them to get from one part of their "state" to another, without permission.

(Continued page 9)

Think differently about money

Urban Kohl

"You Don't Get It!"

That condescending phrase put many doubters in their place in the 90's.

Spoken by brash young financiers whose idea of a productive enterprise was one that churned up lots of financial transactions without doing anything real. The myth of business providing products and services was maintained for public consumption, but providing anything of use seemed an inconvenient obstruction in the path of real money-making.

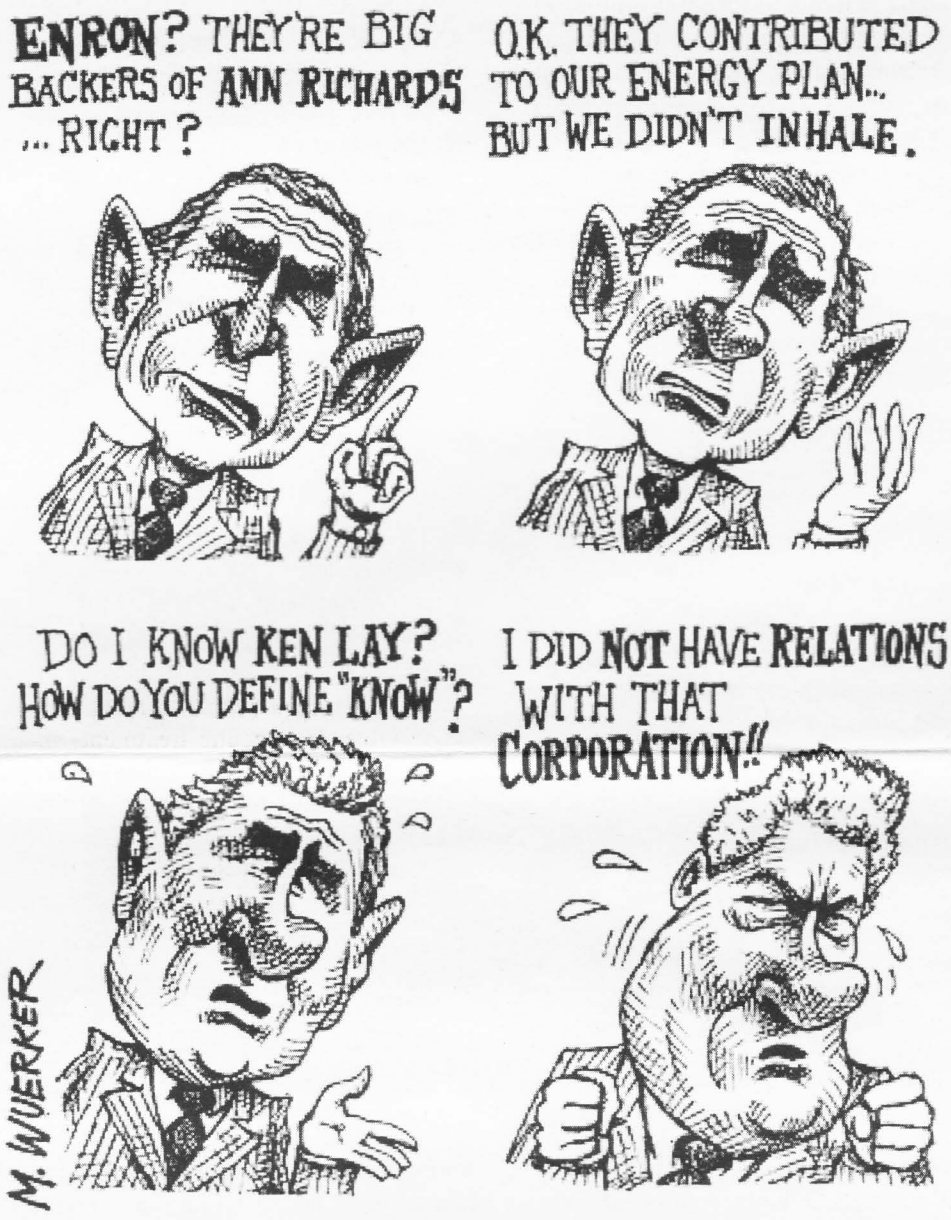
The US and world economies had become so huge that great wealth could be attained simply by creating finance capital – under any guise, such as financing a merger. This effectively carves off a helping of real wealth in proportion to the size of the transaction without having to get hands dirty by actually contributing something. And the golden boys actually believed they deserved their easy-come wealth.

Of course all of the scheming had to have some semblence of connection to reality. Huge amounts of money could no longer just be "printed" based on passing static assets back and forth like Neil Bush and his ilk did in the Savings & Loans scam of the 80's. That didn't last long, although it paid well while it did last.

Next generation economist and "Biznez"man Kenneth Lay had a more refined scam working on a high level of sophistication and volume. He was making believers out of the financial elite with his combination of schmoozing the Congress and paying journalists and individual politicians at calculated points — no direct quid pro quo, mind you, but Lay and Enron got the deregulation they needed to turn the entire power industry from utilities for the public to cash cows for cronies. Politicians got their campaign finance fixes and "plausable deniability." Unlike the small time wheeler-dealers, Mr. Lay was more likely to say "Trust me - see how well I'm doing?" than "you don't get it."

What we don't get is that a predatory mentality has taken over our entire socio-economic-political system – under the name of free market democracy. Much effort and expense is made to maintain the illusion of freedom and fairness. Much more is spent striking deadly blows wherever any semblance of democracy tries to show itself. Our intelligence and law-enforcement community was hell-bent on this task, harrassing the citizens who protested the WTO and the bogus election process, and completely neglected all the clues to preparations for the twin towers attack.

It's a sad day when honest, concerned citizens and youth are beaten, gassed, arrested and have lives ruined for trying to exercise their rights in the only avenues left open to them, while our intelligence community is training terrorists to interfere with the democratic processes in other countries. It proves that our freedom has been hijacked and what is left for us is a climate in which we are compelled to support our troops in cruel acts against innocent populations, and shut up and be "patriotic" on the domestic front as our rights are systematically taken away.


ENRON? THEY'RE BIG BACKERS OF ANN RICHARDS ... RIGHT?
O.K. THEY CONTRIBUTED TO OUR ENERGY PLAN... BUT WE DIDN'T INHALE.
DO I KNOW KEN LAY? HOW DO YOU DEFINE "KNOW"?
I DID NOT HAVE RELATIONS WITH THAT CORPORATION!!
M. WUERKER

It's true! We just don't get it. We support the free market democracy like the crusaders supported propagation of their faith, like the Nazi youth supported Hitler. The brash financiers are showing us what it means to be wealthy, and blaming market forces for the cruel results of their creative scams to make lots of money from manipulations of our industries — by creating a world where non-productive manipulaters are rewarded way more than productive entrepreneurs who still "don't get it" either — who still believe the way to make money is to actually contribute something useful.

How did it get this way? What to do? Get a dialogue going about the nature of money. Look more deeply into the concepts of money creation, fractional reserves, etc. – how many of the biggest financial deals are not about economies of scale as much as about creating "wealth" for the perpetrators, and leaving the world at large with more debt. Try to cut through all the obfuscation behind which hide the magical strategies by which creators of financial capital suck the juice from our productive economy and leave nearly everyone on earth helpless and confused (and stuck with more debt). Again I recommend John McMurtry's "Cancer Stage of Capitalism" for insight into the money system. Contemplating the title alone should be a good start. It's not a metaphor. Our finance system is killing our planet. Only by taking this power away from the usurpers and userers can we rediscover the universe we really want.

The usury is a small part of it. High interest rates are annoying and cost the average mortgagee or consumer credit user plenty, but the real power is exercised when the manipulators create money from thin air, by saddling our industries with greater debt, and then line their pockets with it the way Enron execs and hordes of others have done and continue to do.

(*Axis*, continued)

continued to work together, intent on ridding their country of the Shah, his opulent lifestyle at the expense of the Iranian peasantry and working class, and his dreaded secret police. I met some of the most dedicated people I have ever met before or since while working with these men and women. Many of them had families back in Iran who lived under a constant threat of torture and death because of their children's activities against the Shah and his puppetmaster in Washington.

Despite these threats, their families supported their activities and did whatever they could to insure that these young men and women could finish their education in the United States and come back to Iran to serve the revolution. Meanwhile, in the United States, SAVAK agents operated openly, attacking demonstrations of Iranian students and their supporters, kidnapping Iranian activists, and testifying at INS deportation hearings, where Iranian activists were sent back to almost certain torture and death in Iran's gulags.

I write this for one reason: to illustrate the commitment of the Iranian people to never let the United States control its destiny again. After Khomeini took over the reins of power in revolutionary Iran, he and his clerical government, in a show of religious intolerance and a grab for power, drove the secular elements out of the government and, in some cases, out of the country or to their death. Indeed, I am almost certain that some of the individuals I worked with in the 1970s were killed at the hands of the Khomeini police apparatus. It was these acts and the US-funded operations against the Iranian government (support of opposition groups, monetary support for Iraq's bloody war against Iran in the 1980s, to name two) that eventually dashed the revolutionary hopes of many of the Iranian people and led to Iran's current situation.

However, if GW and his friends think they can defeat Iran, they are wrong. Although there are sharp divisions amongst the Iranian people both in the government and in the streets and villages, any military attack by the United States and/or Israel will cause those divisions to disappear. The Iranian people would unite to repel any such venture. In addition, such an act would only serve to destroy the more moderate and secular elements in Iran, since war seems to bring the most reactionary elements to the fore in every country where there is a war. One need only look at America's current political climate for an example of this phenomenon. Despite the basically imperial nature of American foreign policy under Bill Clinton, there were genuine attempts by his administration to engage states considered "rogue" by the United States (like Iran) in a dialogue aimed at defusing the potential for war with those states. Now, with the resurgence of the warmakers inside the Beltway, this dialogue is forgotten and naked imperialism is back in vogue with the policy policymakers. Of course, should their war plans proceed as they hope, none ofthese men and women will be putting their lives on the front line. In fact, if previous US wars are any indication, neither will any of their relatives unless they volunteer to do so -- a very unlikely proposition.

It is important for anyone opposed to war for whatever reasons to challenge the Bush administration's characterization of Iran, Iraq, and North Korea as an "axis of evil." While there may be several aspects of these countries' political and social situations with which we may disagree, they are no more "evil" than any other nation. If one were to apply the reasons to the United States that GW gives for wanting to wage war on the nations in his "axis", s/he would most certainly find that the United States also fits many of GW's categories of "evil." It's all a matter of perspective. Indeed, if the export of weapons of mass destruction is a reason to go to war, then the United States, which exports more such weapons than any other country by far, would be fair game for an attack by pretty much any army. Of course, this isn't going to happen (we hope) to the United States, nor should it happen elsewhere.

Ask the Sex Worker

----------Real answers to life's 'lil questions from a slut's perspective

Lady Anon

Question: Can sex be an addiction?

Yes, according the experts in this field, sex becomes an addiction when sexual expression interferes with humanistic expression.

It has become common vernacular to say that I am addicted to something. Of course someone can be addicted to chemicals like alcohol, nicotine, or cocaine, but can someone be addicted to love, sex, or pornography? How much masturbation is too much? The answer really depends on your perspective. The World Health Organization has defined an addiction as a pathological relationship with a mood altering experience or thing that causes damage to the individual or others. ... however, there is no diagnostic category in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition (DSM-IV), for sexual addiction.

The National Council on Sexual Addiction & Compulsivity defined sexual addiction as "persistent and escalating patterns of sexual behavior acted out despite increasing negative consequences to self and others.

Whether you call it an addiction or compulsion, if obsessing over love, sex, or pornography or sexually acting out is troubling you, causing significant impairment or distress, or damaging your life it's time for some help. When you feel you have lost some degree of self control, when you can no longer resist temptation, when more and more of your time is spent thinking, planning, and fantasizing about a particular sexual behavior, persistent and intrusive ideas, thoughts, impulses, or images, when you withdraw for your friends, family, and primary sexual partner, when you need more and more stimulation to get off, when you put yourself at greater and greater risk of hurting yourself, losing your job, losing in relationships, when you continue to do damaged yourself and others, when sexual expression interferes with humanistic expression, its time for help.

How is sexual addiction diagnosed?

When you feel you have lost some degree of self control, when you can no longer resist impulses and temptation, when more and more of your time is spent thinking, planning, and fantasizing about a particular sexual behavior, when you withdraw for your friends, family, and primary sexual partner, when you need more and more stimulation to get off, when you put yourself at greater and greater risk of hurting yourself, losing your job, destroying your relationships, when you continue to do damaged yourself and others, when sexual expression interferes with humanistic expression, you need help.

Often addicts have difficulty recognizing that their addiction is interfering with their lives, which is called denial. Denial involves ignoring that one's addictive behavior is interfering with one's life or causing problems. Denial may be maintained because the compulsive sexual behavior is being used as a coping mechanism to deal with stress.

What factors influence and cause sexual addiction?

What makes sex for some so compelling that it becomes an addiction? It is about the inability of sexual addicts to experience responsiveness and affirmation in the real world. Sexual addicts experience problems with attachment, and may be insecure or anxious in interpersonal relationships. Addicts have a disposition of extreme comfort toward objectifying others and when exposed to stressful situations, manage their anxiety through fantasy, using it as a secure base in an insecure world.

The addiction may be in response to physical, sexual, family, and social trauma. There may be biological factors or concurrent personality disorders, mood and anxiety disorders, and substance abuse.

Who is vulnerable to sexual addiction problems?

The National Association of Sexual Addiction Problems estimated that 6 to 8 percent of Americans are sex addicts, which is 16 to 21.5 million

Are there any treatments for sexual addiction?

Yes, sexual addiction is amenable to a variety of treatment options. The provision of traditionally used psychotherapeutic and medical approaches can assist in treatment of attendant disorders obsessive-compulsive behavior, emotional distress, destructive impairment, social withdrawal, depression, anxiety, avoidance, and anger that may feed the yearning for the sexually addictive behavior. By resolving depression and other disorders, the self-medicating effect of sex is experienced as less necessary. Other therapeutic treatments include victim empathy exercises, which attempt to reduce the impact of objectified fantasies by developing feelings of compassion toward the "victim." The latest research has demonstrated that it may be difficult for sexual addicts to abandon or disown their secure base, i.e., their emotional disposition of comfort toward objectified fantasies, if there is not another one to take its place. This type of treatment must be combined with helping the addict to gain self-insight into the purpose of the objective fantasies. Twelve step programs are also used, which are spiritually-based, works by paradox, and is not focused on abstinence, as are relapse prevention programs that view lapses as opportunities for learning to identify risky situations that cause anger, anxiety or stress and to take steps to cope with the actual problem.

The co-addict has certain characteristics that draw them to the addict, and may interact with an addict in a manner that both maintains the relationship and allows the behavior. Sometimes both partners have the same addiction. When one partner has an online addiction, the other may inadvertently allow the online sexual behavior by maintaining emotional and physical distance and by not confronting relationship difficulties. The therapist's task is to help each acknowledge her or his respective contribution to the problems and to focus on changing what she or he can control (i.e., her or his own behavior). In ongoing relationships this is best accomplished in couple therapy, emphasizing emotional expression and good communication.

Now, lets all go have sex now that I got you all worked up. Not.

(*Palestine*, continued)

On the vital question of Jerusalem, the Palestinians will have no sovereign area at all in the city that serves as the center of Palestinian life. There would be only a zone of nominal "sovereignty" in a ring of villages well outside the city, and well outside the network of illegally built Jewish settlements. This the Palestinians would be allowed to call "Jerusalem". There would be another "autonomous" zone in the walled Old City and in another internal ring of neighborhoods inside the traditional city borders. This autonomy would be highly limited and would include nothing like ownership of the land, control over ingress and egress, etc. Essentially it would entail control over civil affairs. Real sovereignty would be turned over to Israel, the illegal occupying power. Even the land beneath the Haram-al-Sharif, the holy Islamic shrine, would come under Israeli sovereignty.

The millions of Palestinian refugees, whose legal claim to return to their homeland is guaranteed by U.N. Resolution 194, by the Fourth Geneva Convention, by the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and other international law, would be called upon to permanently renounce all claims against Israel. In exchange, a few thousand people would be allowed to return over a fifteen-year period. Israel refused even to acknowledge historical responsibility for their plight.

Camp David would also have left the West Bank's water supply in Israel's control, the Palestinians would have no control over who could enter or leave their territory, Israel would retain the right to enter with troops at its own discretion, and in general the Palestinians would remain at the mercy of Israel in every important respect: economically, militarily, existentially. Remember that this is not another "interim" arrangement, but rather the proposal for the permanent status.

Given that the Palestinians had already conceded seventy-eight percent of Palestine, and had agreed to make the remaining twenty-two percent "negotiable", how was the Camp David story turned so dramatically against the Palestinians? Simply by suppressing the facts, by not reporting the actual terms that were offered. One can look in vain even for a simple map. There is one reason alone that this appalling situation continues, with all its needless violence and misery: the United States.

For thirty-five years we have obstructed the world's efforts to implement a just solution: a return to the 1967 boundaries. Instead we have protected Israel in its systematic and utterly illegal settlement project, its seizure of land, its brutal suppression of resistance, its efforts to subjugate forever a people who, for all their travails, are still not willing to bow down.

Morever, we have financed this, with a staggering $95 billion in US aid, and a pile of weapons so stupendous that the current American tempest over the Iranian "Ship of Terror" is indeed a spectacle of hypocracy that is amazing to behold.

What is left to say after the collapse of Oslo? Only to insist on the minimum foundation for dignity.

"End the Occupation!"

*Tom Wright directed the 1997 documentary C*heckpoint: The Palestinians After Oslo. *He lives in Olympia.*

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Along the Color Line
The limits of integration

Dr. Manning Marable

From Frederick Douglass to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for more than a century, the dominant political perspective within the Black Freedom Movement was "integrationism." This political approach emphasized the deep commitment and sacrifices African Americans had made to enrich and expand America's democracy.

African Americans had, afterall, fought in all of America's wars, and had made enormous social and economic contributions to the nation's welfare. Blacks believed in the Constitution and the inherent fairness of democratic institutions. Therefore, according to this argument, it only was reasonable to accept blacks as being full civil partners in the construction of the American nation. All structural barriers which impeded the free and fair access by African Americans to economic development, political decision-making and individual advancement should be eliminated.

The logical path forward to achieve these objectives was through political action, broadly defined: the use of lawsuits to challenge segregation laws in schools, public accommodations and residential codes; the fight to remove all restrictions on black electoral political participation; the establishment of pragmatic coalitions with sympathetic white political organizations and powerful interest groups to shift racial policies and practices toward blacks' interests. Embedded in this strategic approach to racial advancement was the unquestioned belief that the American state could indeed be lifted from its historical foundations of structural racism. The winning of incremental legal and political victories, over time, would lead to qualitative changes in the American government. In other words, the U.S. government could be deracialized through militant political activity and reforms.

These key assumptions would form the basis for the practical politics of the black middle class for several generations. They are all found, for example, in the 1905 program of the Niagara Movement, a group of liberal black intellectuals and professionals led by W.E.B Du Bois. The Niagara Movement's agenda called on Congress to enforce the Constitution, and demanded "upright judges in courts, juries selected without discrimination on account of color and the same measure of punishment and the same efforts at reformation for blacks as for white offenders."

On the issue of electoral political participation, the Niagara Movement urged Negroes to "protest emphatically and continually against the curtailment of their political rights. We believe in manhood suffrage; we believe that no man is so good, intelligent or wealthy as to be entrusted wholly with the welfare of his neighbors." And on the issue of Jim Crow, there could be no compromise: "Any discrimination based simply on race or color is barbarous, we care not how hallowed it be by custom, expediency or prejudice … discriminations based simply and solely on physical peculiarities, place of birth, color of skin, are relics of that unreasoning human savagery of which the world is and ought to be thoroughly ashamed."

The same strategic approach for achieving black freedom through the implementation of meaningful reforms within America's democratic institutions can be heard in Martin Luther King, Jr.'s famous "I Have A Dream" speech delivered before an audience of 250,000 civil rights protestors at the August 28, 1963 March on Washington, D.C. King's speech presented the struggle for racial desegregation as the fulfillment of America's democratic creed: "When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. The note was a promise that all men would be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Martin's greatest political aspiration, his "dream," was not race-based; it was "a dream deeply rooted in the American dream." It was the belief that through legal and political reforms "we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood."

In the 1950s and 1960s in the Deep South, the struggle for integration took the form of nonviolent civil disobedience against restrictions of Jim Crow. Although its most prominent spokespersons such as King were middle class, the vast majority of local leaders and grassroots activists were predominantly working class and poor people, and many were women. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 finally outlawed racial segregation in public accommodations throughout the nation, and the Voting Rights Act the following year permitted millions of Southern blacks to vote for the first time in their lives.

Organized efforts to dismantle structural racism outside of the South, however, proved to be more difficult than civil rights activists anticipated. Northern white liberals didn't object to Negroes gaining the right to vote or eating in restaurants, so long as they did not move next door. The backlash began in "the bastion of California liberalism," Berkeley, in early 1963 when a referendum on a local ordinance banning racial discrimination in all real estate sales and rentals, was defeated with 83 percent voter turnout. The next year, California voters statewide approved Proposition 14, which proposed to amend the state constitution to guarantee a homeowner's right to sell only to whom he or she wished to sell, by a two-to-one margin.

That same year, Detroit voters approved a "Home Owners' Rights Ordinance" that was designed to maintain that city's pattern of residential segregation. When Martin moved the focus of the desegregation struggle from the Deep South to Chicago, emphasizing employment opportunities and fair housing for Negroes, he encountered fierce resistance from white ethnics. Thousands of white men, women and children hurled rocks, bottles and even knives at unarmed nonviolent demonstrators. Martin was so shaken that he later admitted, "I have never seen such hostility and hatred anywhere in my life, even in Selma."

Today, residential segregation is more extensive than it was when Martin was assassinated. The economic inequality between the rich and poor has accelerated. Instead of Thurgood Marshall on the Supreme Court, we have that pathetic panderer to white conservatism, Clarence Thomas on the high court. We've elected over 12,000 black elected officials since 1968, yet our political system is moving further to the right. The politics of liberal reform and integration has reached an effective dead end, and it requires a serious and critical rethinking within the black community of where do we go from here.

Dr. Manning Marable is Professor of History and Political Science, and the Director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies at Columbia University in New York.

The Bunnypants Gang Takes On PFLAG (or, Things Get Really Weird in America)

Tucker Estron

Things started to get seriously weird in America when the son of the former chief of the secret police was installed as President after a dubious election.

Most news agencies in the country carried somewhat-inaccurate assessments of the final vote count in the most-disputed state, claiming the son of the former chief of secret police had actually won, fair and square. Reports from other countries, where the propagandists (who were variously called "spin doctors' and 'press agents') had no sway told the real story. It was moot anyway; the matter had been decided by the highest court in the land—presided over by a judge with political ties to that former chief of secret police himself.

The son of the former chief of secret police began appointing members of t he far right wing of his political party to key positions. As Secretary of Energy he chose a man who believed the Department of Energy should be abolished; as Attorney General he appointed a man who blocked voluntary desegregation in Missouri (apparently without wondering whether the man would be able to uphold desegregation laws). Then, in the middle of this already warped time, a far-right-wing religious fundamentalist from a different sect launched an attack on America...and the clusterfuck was on.

New surveillance powers for the police, new cautions to "watch what you say," and a new arm of the government, named "Homeland Security" sprang up like toadstools after the rain. The Attorney General started hinting that anyone who thought civil rights were in danger might be accused of siding with the terrorists; and then it was holiday season. One of my on-line buddies got a visit from the FBI for publicly calling Bush "Crusader Bunnypants."

Meanwhile, the Salvation Army, a religious organization that had curried favor with the Bush government, continued longstanding policies of discriminating against gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people.

In protest, Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) groups around the country started printing up funny-money: Monopoly-looking bills with a little message saying, "I did not donate the real thing because of your discriminatory practices," to be dropped into the holiday season's many Salvation Army buckets. The idea was to send a clear message that the Salvation Army was being boycotted, and why.

The Salvation Army did not like this boycott, so they called up the Secret Service—the people who investigate counterfeit money.

Despite the fact that these bills were obvious fakes and no one was trying to use them to buy anything, the Secret Service dutifully showed up at the headquarters of the Flint PFLAG to investigate. It seems the Bunnypants Gang isn't too fond of gay people, and they had determined that these little reminder-notes were somehow more dangerous, more a threat to the nation, than all those Bill Clinton $3 bills that were printed up in the 90's (without one peep out of the Secret Service).

Of course, the absurdity isn't over yet. The Bunnypants Gang is even now investigating those troublesome PFLAG agitators, while somehow failing to find the guy who's been sending anthrax around. (It's no surprise that Mr. Thrax, whoever he is, seems to target left-wingers. Perhaps the Bunnypants Gang should be looking around their own clubhouse?)

This, then, is the new way of things. A wise person observed, "Fascism looks exactly like a parody of itself." Well, it's not quite a parody yet — but I can see the irony beginning to roll in like a fog.

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(*Wal-Mart*, continued)

Mart is extending substantial additional funds [in its] commitment to the village theme."

Other residents took Wal-Mart to task for its adversarial record against organized labor and for paying low wages.

" QFC and Safeway are both Union - they get decent pay and respect," said Jackie Amitz, an Armour Drive resident, referring to two other super-stores less than a mile from Summer Walk.

"Wal-Mart pays minimum wage, and minimum wage doesn't meet poverty standards," she said.

According to the United Food & Commercial Workers (UFCW), Wal-Mart pays twenty-five percent less than unionized retail chains. The UFCW also contends Wal-Mart consistently blocks unionization efforts for all of its 885, 000 US employees.

Amitz said her grandmother was a Wal-Mart worker for fifteen years and never earned more than the $8 an hour Amitz makes working for Home Depot.

"I am so against this," Amitz said. "It's the last thing our community needs."

Amitz, Podowicz, Wight and others also expressed fears that the store would increase crime in the area, especially since Wal-Marts sell guns and ammunition.

However, Dunning assured the residents the additional tax revenue generated by Wal-Mart would keep Lacey Police well-funded and prepared for any increases in crime.

Not every one at the hearing was against having Wal-Mart as a close neighbor.

"I am impressed with how Wal-Mart brought to consumers modern technology," said Truman Jolly, who offered the only pro-Wal-Mart testimony at the hearing. "It is a benefit to our community to have this company here."

Jolly added he will no longer have to "drive to Portland, Seattle, or Tacoma to get what we can now get here."

Besides the locations Jolly cited, the South Sound is host to a Shelton and a Centralia Wal-Mart.

Shirley Reed admitted her fondness for the world's largest retailer.

"I love Wal-Mart," Reed said. "I have to go to Mason County to shop there."

Still, Reed does not want Wal-Mart in her neighborhood.

"I'm from the Midwest, where Wal-Marts are everywhere, but I've never seen a Wal-Mart in a residential area," she said. "They run twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. It would be very disturbing to have a Wal-Mart go into a high-density residential area like ours."

As the hearing came to a close, McCullough presented a four-inch thick booklet containing hundreds of pro-Wal-Mart questionnaire responses mailed to Lacey residents last year.

Katherine Giltman, a resident of Capitol City Golf Course Estates located across the street from the proposed site, said she never received the questionnaire. Many of her neighbors at the hearing said the questionnaire was not mailed to them as well.

Examiner Jim Driscoll, who presided over the hearing, said public testimony and letters sent to the council will weigh heavier in the city's decision-making process than the Wal-Mart questionnaires.

The next phase in the Summer Walk amendment process includes a recoomendation issued by Driscoll to the Lacey City Council.

Driscoll said he plans to make his recommendation by March 20, with a related public city council meeting on April 11 and a decision by the council soon after.

CITY OF LACEY CONTACT INFO

-City Council: 491-3214, council@ci.lacey.wa.us

-Public Works Dept: 491-560, engineering@ci.lacey.wa.us

-Community Development Dept: 491-5642, planning@ci.lacey.wa.us

More announcements

OlyNetwork

General Interest Meeting
Thursday, March 7th.

OlyNetwork will hold a general interest meeting at 7pm on Thursday March 7th, 2002 upstairs at Media Island (918 Adams Street). Anyone interested in learning more about OlyNetwork or in working with us in the future is encouraged to attend.

OlyNetwork is a local organization committed to promoting communication, networking, and accessibility within the South Puget Sound social change community.

We currently maintain a comprehensive calendar of the area's activist events which is distributed by email to hundreds of people in our area each week and provide free web hosting and email services to all local activist organizations.

We are working toward the completion of a number of other non-internet based projects, including the erection of kiosks featuring our events calendar around town and the creation of a "yellow pages" for activist organizations in Olympia.

If you would like more information or can't make the March 7th meeting please contact us at 357-9119 or olynetwork@olynetwork.org.

You can also find out more about OlyNetwork at our website http://www.olynetwork.org/.

The Erosion Of Civil Liberties: Are We Safer?

Friday, March 15

Forum sponsored by Olympia Friends Meeting (Quakers), St. Michael's Social Justice Committee, and the Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation. The event begins at 6:45 PM at the Coach House, 22nd & Water (behind the State Museum).

Panel will be moderated by former Congresswoman Jolene Unsoeld. Info: 866-6033

Robert Hoyt & The Citizen's Band in concert

Friday, March 15th, 7pm
The Longhouse, TESC

Co-Sponsored by the Evergreen Political Information Center (EPIC), KAOS, and the Student Arts Council

Coalition for Low-Income Power

Monday, March 18th

The idea is to harness the energy from fighting the targeted laws at the homeless and become a solid group that would both be reactionary (keeping tabs on the Olympia Downtown Association, city councils, developers, cops, etc.) and proactive (promoting our own ideas and projects)

It could be loose or super organized and could be part of CLIP or its own thing. The goals could be economic justice, social justice and environomental justice. We could work on things like the convention center, fair housing, sprawl, police harrasement, etc.

The focus would be local - Olympia, Lacey, Tumwater, and perhaps all of Thurston County. Call 705-2726 to find out more.

Mickey Mouse Monopoly Video & Discussion

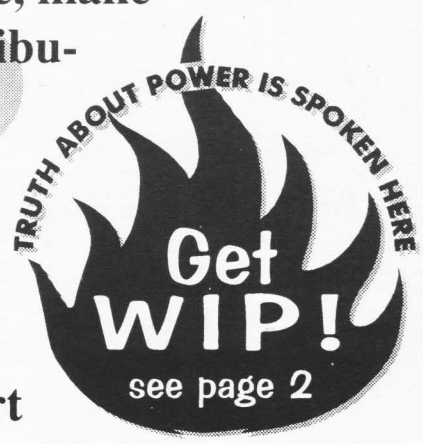
Tuesday, March 19

Watch and discuss this video as part of the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation's "In Search of the Big Picture" series. 7:00 p.m. at Traditions, 5th & Water, Olympia. Info: Sue 709-0795 or Carol 866-7645

Works In Progress is a 10-year old alternative newspaper in Olympia & Thurston County. WIP challenges the corporate media by remaining committed to confronting oppression and encouraging action around issues of economic, social, and environmental justice.

WIP is not a 501C3 nonprofit. WIP does not pay any of its workers, because we don't have a means to. We are 10 to 20 volunteers that do everything from collect and write articles, do layout, paste-up, sell advertising, proofread, distribute, make mailing labels, fold & stamp issues for mailing, and replenish distribution sites.

Please consider that each issue costs roughly $500^{00} to produce. WIP also mails 20 free subscriptions to incarcerated people and has other bills to pay such as for toner cartridges, disks, gas money, paper, PO Box rental, etc. Please donate money if you support alternative media, our mission, or the paper you hold in your hands.



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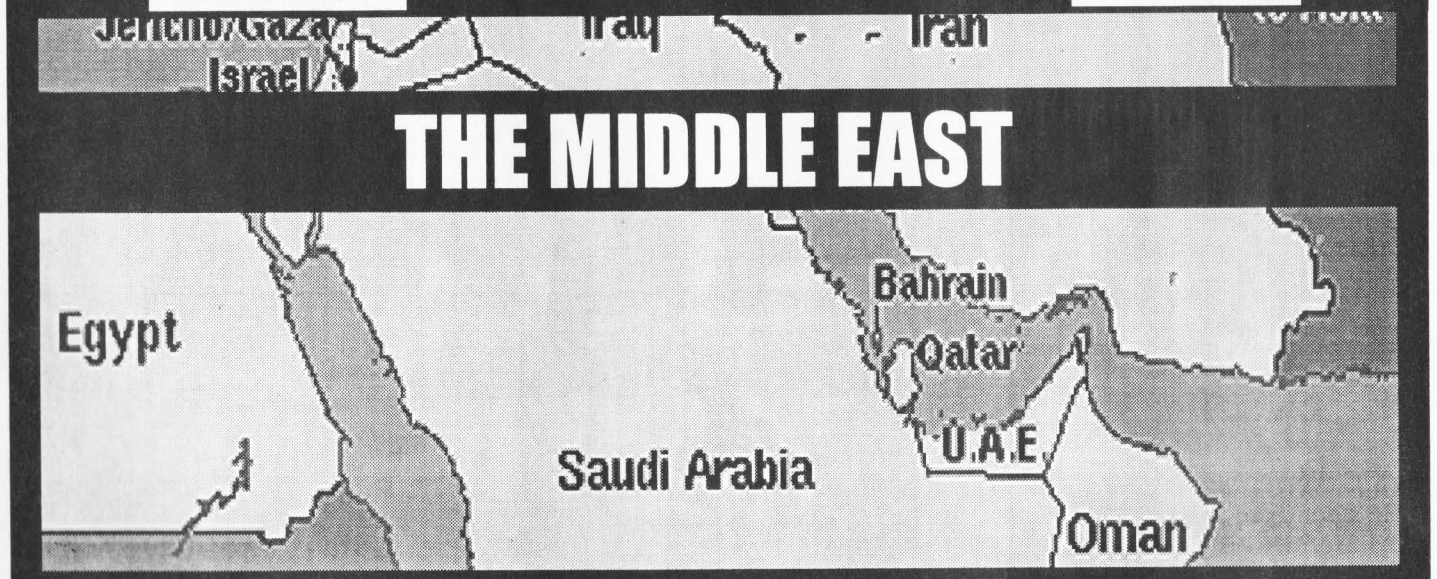


THE MAKING OF AN 'AXIS OF EVIL' -- THE ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF PALESTINE

LOCAL:

WAL-MART

THE FIGHT

AGAINST OLYMPIA'S

ANTI-HOMELESS

ORDINANCES

LACEY-OLYMPIA

IN THE CROSSHAIRS OF A DOUBLE-BARREL ATTACK

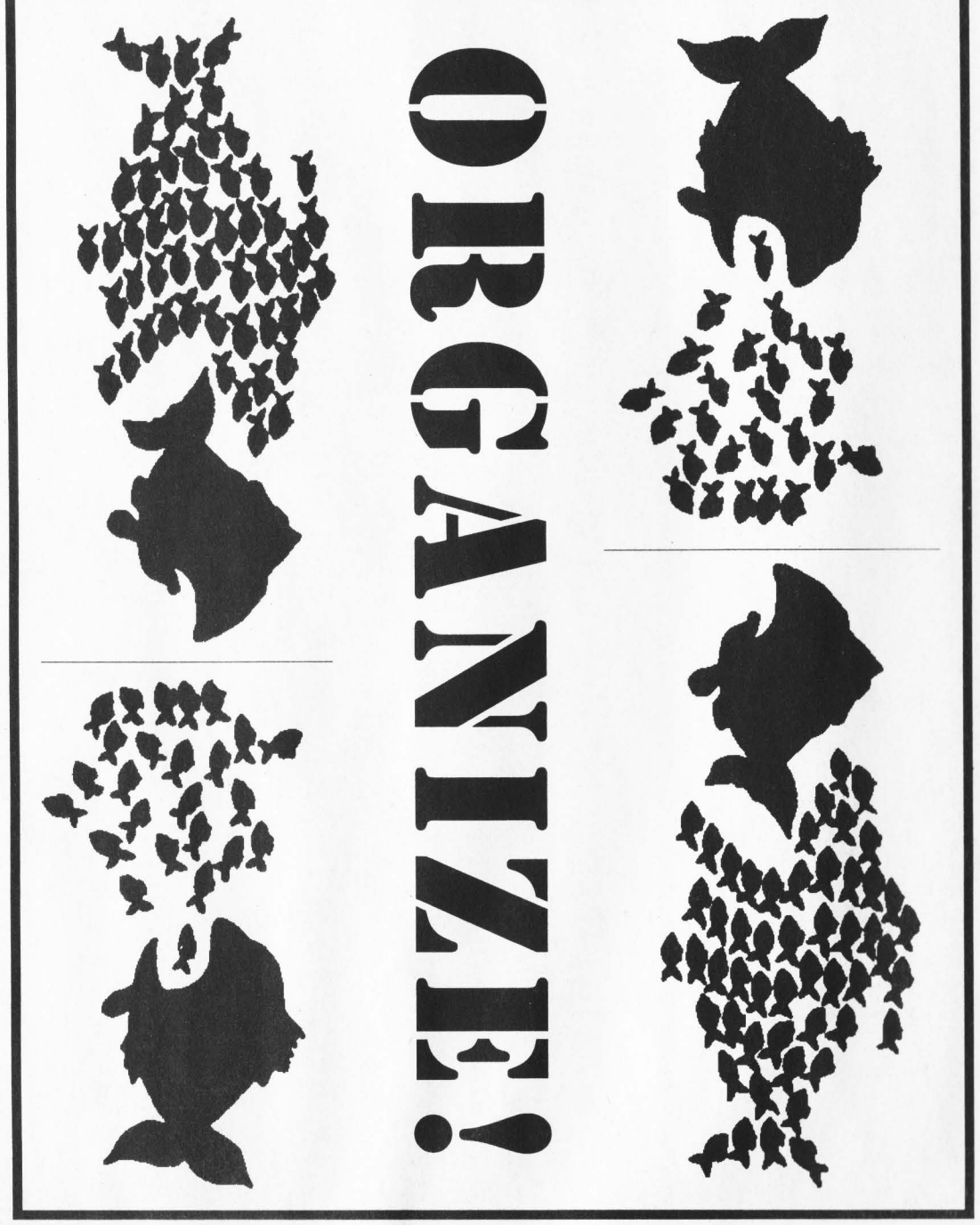
1 Wal-Mart rolls into town & Anti-homeless ordinances challenged

4 John Trudell plays benefit for KAOS

5 Invest in co-op housing & Peace movement strategies

6 MIDDLE EAST REPORT

9 Ask the Sex Worker



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